



#61A  
3-20-03  
R. Hunter

PATENT  
8064.701.00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re application of

Eric MARTINEZ, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2872

Application No.: 09/973,070

Examiner: LAVARIAS, Arnel C.

Filed: October 10, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS PROVIDING FIBER OPTIC CABLES  
THROUGH GAS SERVICE PIPES

RECEIVED  
MAR 13 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Non-Final Office Action dated January 9, 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please AMEND the specification as follows (a marked-up version of the amended specification is attached):

Please delete paragraph [0004] and replace with the following:

--[0004] Fiber optic cables are usually buried to protect from exposure to weather and accidents and to protect from vandalism. In addition, many community regulations require cables be buried. Burying cables in cities is inconvenient and costly. Roads are closed for days at a time while trenches are cut, cable is laid, junction boxes are installed, cables are connected,

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